

Ground Operations- Monitoring Sonoran Woodland Birds (FINAL)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700606

1. Project Description

A. Statement of GO Activity

This grant application requests partial funding in support of ground operations to monitor trends in bird populations and their habitats in OHV recreation landscapes with old-growth Sonoran Desert thorn woodlands (also known as "microphyll" woodlands) on BLM public lands in southeastern California and to compare these trends to conditions in Sonoran Desert thorn woodland landscapes without OHV recreation.

Birds of the Sonoran Desert thorn woodlands are indicators of the habitat quality and rate of change in these ecosystems. Climate models forecast profound environmental changes for the Sonoran Desert. As ecosystem management for wildlife and recreation intensifies in woodlands, data on bird populations will demonstrate the effectiveness of BLM management practices to conserve thorn woodlands and OHV riding opportunities in the woodlands in a time of climate change.

A large number of bird species nesting in these woodlands are Special Status Species. Gilded Flicker, Gila Woodpecker, Elf Owl, and Arizona Bell's Vireo are State of California Endangered Species. Burrowing Owl, Bendire's Thrasher, are Lucy's Warbler are BLM Sensitive Species. Northern Harrier (winter only), Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl (winter only), Vermilion Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, and Crissal Thrasher are California Department of Fish and Game Species of Special Concern.

These woodlands are key also as stopover oases, providing shelter and food for neotropical migrants as they travel long distances across the Sonoran Desert north toward the San Bernardino Mountains and the Sierra Nevada. Monitoring the Sonoran Desert thorn woodland habitat and its birds fulfills in part the obligations for sustainability in Habitat Management Plans for OHV project areas in the following BLM field offices with lands in California: El Centro, Lake Havasu, Needles, Palm Springs, and Yuma.

For 2011, the Bureau of Land Management and its partners are undertaking six activities:

1. Uniform baseline surveys at 400+ permanent count points across the Sonoran Desert, using the standardized BLM / PRBO /

Partners-In-Flight protocol for spring counts of breeding and migrant birds in major OHV recreation and riding sites in the Lower Colorado River corridor, the Salton Sea Trough, and eastern Riverside and San Bernardino County, with reference sites and in non- or low-motorized areas

2. Spring and winter bird surveys of the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Management Area OHV Riding Area and nonriding areas in the Algodones Dunes Wilderness [funded entirely by the BLM El Centro Field Office]

3. Nest monitoring for raptor, woodpecker, and neotropical migrant bird species to document breeding and fledging success and types and amounts of OHV disturbance at sites with and without authorized OHV riding

4. Searches and characterizations of nest sites and their success for decision support to guide restoration of thorn woodland breeding habitats of BLM special status species, State of California listed endangered species, and CA Department of Fish and Game species of special concern

5. Expansion of the monitoring network into mesquite thickets and ironwood stands in previously unmonitored parts of eastern Riverside County

6. Monitoring in the Lark Canyon OHV Area and Campground at the interface between the Mediterranean climate zone and the Sonoran Desert in San Diego County.

Surveys involve three-minute counts at fixed monitoring points twice during the breeding season and (for the Imperial Sand Dunes) twice during the winter. The goal is (1) to develop an estimate of the density of key indicator bird species and

special status bird species in this subtropical desert environment and (2) to detect trends in bird populations in areas with OHV travel in contrast to areas without OHV riding. Once nesting season begins, survey teams locate nests of rare species in woodland habitats and characterize the habitat conditions in which nesting and food foraging occur. Some of the Colorado River thorn non-OHV woodland reference sites are only accessible by boat.

These tasks help woodland managers better understand the conditions in which special status bird species are most numerous and most successful in reproduction as the basis for adaptive natural resource management to enhance and restore Sonoran Desert thorn woodland habitat in areas where OHV recreation is important.

The monitoring funded by this project will last for one year, the project period for all Ground Operations projects. Population counts and trends for bird species are reported annually to the BLM and to the OHMVR Division.

B. Relation of Proposed Project to OHV Recreation

As open space for residents of southern California becomes more valuable and distant from where people live, these once remote woodlands are attracting more visitors interested in exploration, recreation, and solitude that the BLM public lands offer. OHVs and SUVs provide the access by which visitors are able reach these woodlands, whatever their target recreation experience might be. To manage these woodlands for OHV recreational riding in balance with woodland ecological integrity and conservation of biological diversity, especially rare birds, BLM biologists believe that investing in monitoring is the surest way to know how effective BLM habitat management is to protect rare species while sustaining access to woodlands on public lands for people. The BLM acknowledges its key role in the conservation of the Sonoran Desert thorn woodland ecosystems in a time of climate change because the Bureau is the steward of more than 90% of this habitat type in California. Audubon California has designated this habitat in its entirety as an Important Bird Area for the State of California.

Sustainability of these woodlands is important to ecosystem stability of Sonoran Desert washes because woodland tree canopy slow the impact and speed of flash floods, and their root systems maintain bank stability during the monsoon and winter rain regimes in Southeast California. Thorn woodlands are important to the quality of water flowing into the Colorado River and the Salton Sea during flash floods. Sustaining OHV access, travel, and recreation opportunity in these impressive woodlands is important too because these areas offer attractive sites to picnic, camp, and seek shade. With loss or degradation of this habitat, we would all lose scenic beauty and the inviting shelter of these unusual woodlands. We do not have a long history of stewardship for these woodlands, and we need to be learning quickly how to sustain these woodlands with restoration and silvicultural tending that promote both woodland health and recreational enjoyment for visitors.

C. Describe the size of the specific Project Area(s) in acres and/or miles

The Sonoran Desert thorn woodlands extend more than 150 air miles in the lower Colorado River Valley from the US-Mexican border north to Chemehuevi Wash in San Bernardino County. Away from the Colorado River, the woodlands run 37 air miles on the bajada plain from the Chocolate Mountains downslope to the highest dune peaks on the east side of the Imperial Sand Dunes and to Milpitas Wash/Chuckwalla Bench from the west side of the Chocolate Mountains. The third major but patchily distributed concentration of thorn woodlands occurs in Riverside County and runs 120 miles in a band of varying width from San Geronio Pass/Mission Creek on the west (north of Palm Springs) eastward on both sides of the I-10 corridor to Blythe at the Colorado River.

D. Location and description of OHV opportunities

The region covered in this project consists of desert locations amid the rugged mountain terrain in Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties, all counties with nationally significant OHV recreation resources on the BLM public lands. The spectrum of resources in the Sonoran Desert thorn woodland region includes the most visited OHV recreation site in the world, the Imperial Sand Dunes in Imperial County which has multiple sections with open riding for OHVs. The Dunes are also home to a ten-acre thorn forest (closed canopy) that is unique in the United States.

Along the Colorado River corridor in easternmost San Bernardino County is the Parker Strip, a center for OHV-recreation and vehicle access to recreation sites for boating, waterskiing, swimming, hiking, camping, hunting, and birding. Two OHV

open areas, Copper Dunes and Crossroads on the California side of the lower Colorado River, are situated inside the Parker Strip. A fine designated route network exists for touring around the outstanding landscape of the Whipple Mountains and takes in the largest area of saguaros still found in California. The Strip also provides access to OHV opportunities immediately across the state line on the Arizona side of the Colorado River. Chemehuevi Wash, the northernmost location for Sonoran Desert thorn woodland in California, has been popular for motorcycle and 4x4 vehicle riding for decades.

BLM public lands in eastern Riverside County between Indio and Blythe are increasingly popular touring areas for OHV riding on BLM designated routes. The BLM Palm Springs Field Office has established the Meccacopia Special Recreation Area (SRA) with a technically challenging route network that provide vehicular access via federally legislated "cherry stem" routes into wildernesses east of City of Indio and the town of Mecca, making wilderness more accessible for more people. Many OHV routes run along wilderness boundaries as well so that people can reach remote destinations for non-motorized recreation, backcountry hiking, and camping in wilderness. Route touring in the Meccacopia SRA through Sonoran Desert thorn woodlands offers a visually rich and unexpectedly verdant setting and offers a different experience of driving solitude for people who might be too familiar with traffic congestion in southern California.

2. Rerouting Requirements

Rerouting

- (a) Does your project involve rerouting of any roads and trails? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If response to question (a) is 'Yes', a Project timeline, conceptual drawings and site plans are required (See 'Attachments' tab at the top of the screen)

If response to question (a) is 'No', skip details related to rerouting

Additional Documentation

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700606

1. **Project Timeline (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**
2. **Conceptual Drawings and Site Plans (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**
3. **Project-Specific Maps**
Attachments: [Sonoran Desert Woodland Monitoring Points](#)
4. **Optional Project-Specific Application Documents**

Project Cost Estimate

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
APPLICANT NAME :	BLM - California State Office		
PROJECT TITLE :	Ground Operations- Monitoring Sonoran Woodland Birds (FINAL)	PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	G09-01-07-G01
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>This grant application requests partial funding in support of ground operations to monitor trends in bird populations and their habitats in OHV recreation landscapes with old-growth Sonoran Desert thorn woodlands (also known as "microphyll" woodlands) on BLM public lands in southeastern California and to compare these trends to conditions in Sonoran Desert thorn woodland landscapes without OHV recreation.</p> <p>Birds of the Sonoran Desert thorn woodlands are indicators of the habitat quality and rate of change in these ecosystems. Climate models forecast profound environmental changes for the Sonoran Desert. As ecosystem management for wildlife and recreation intensifies in woodlands, data on bird populations will demonstrate the effectiveness of BLM management practices to conserve thorn woodlands and OHV riding opportunities in the woodlands in a time of climate change.</p> <p>A large number of bird species nesting in these woodlands are Special Status Species. Gilded Flicker, Gila Woodpecker, Elf Owl, and Arizona Bell's Vireo are State of California Endangered Species. Burrowing Owl, Bendire's Thrasher, are Lucy's Warbler are BLM Sensitive Species. Northern Harrier (winter only), Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl (winter only), Vermilion Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, and Crissal Thrasher are California Department of Fish and Game Species of Special Concern.</p> <p>These woodlands are key also as stopover oases, providing shelter and food for neotropical migrants as they travel long distances across the Sonoran Desert north toward the San Bernardino Mountains and the Sierra Nevada. Monitoring the Sonoran Desert thorn woodland habitat and its birds fulfills in part the obligations for sustainability in Habitat Management Plans for OHV project areas in the following BLM field offices with lands in California: El Centro, Lake Havasu, Needles, Palm Springs, and Yuma.</p> <p>For 2011, the Bureau of Land Management and its partners are undertaking six activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Uniform baseline surveys at 400+ permanent count points across the Sonoran Desert, using the standardized BLM / PRBO / Partners-In-Flight protocol for spring counts of breeding and migrant birds in major OHV recreation and riding sites in the Lower Colorado River corridor, the Salton Sea Trough, and eastern Riverside and San Bernardino County, with reference sites and in non- or low-motorized areas 2. Spring and winter bird surveys of the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Management Area OHV Riding Area and nonriding areas in the Algodones Dunes Wilderness [funded entirely by the BLM El Centro Field Office] 3. Nest monitoring for raptor, woodpecker, and neotropical migrant bird species to document breeding and fledging success and types and amounts of OHV disturbance at sites with and without authorized OHV riding 4. Searches and characterizations of nest sites and their success for decision support to guide restoration of thorn woodland breeding habitats of BLM 		

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: BLM - California State Office
Application: Ground Operations- Monitoring Sonoran Woodland Birds (FINAL)

3/1/2010

	<p>special status species, State of California listed endangered species, and CA Department of Fish and Game species of special concern</p> <p>5. Expansion of the monitoring network into mesquite thickets and ironwood stands in previously unmonitored parts of eastern Riverside County</p> <p>6. Monitoring in the Lark Canyon OHV Area and Campground at the interface between the Mediterranean climate zone and the Sonoran Desert in San Diego County.</p> <p>Surveys involve three-minute counts at fixed monitoring points twice during the breeding season and (for the Imperial Sand Dunes) twice during the winter. The goal is (1) to develop an estimate of the density of key indicator bird species and special status bird species in this subtropical desert environment and (2) to detect trends in bird populations in areas with OHV travel in contrast to areas without OHV riding. Once nesting season begins, survey teams locate nests of rare species in woodland habitats and characterize the habitat conditions in which nesting and food foraging occur. Some of the Colorado River thorn non-OHV woodland reference sites are only accessible by boat.</p> <p>These tasks help woodland managers better understand the conditions in which special status bird species are most numerous and most successful in reproduction as the basis for adaptive natural resource management to enhance and restore Sonoran Desert thorn woodland habitat in areas where OHV recreation is important.</p> <p>The monitoring funded by this project will last for one year, the project period for all Ground Operations projects. Population counts and trends for bird species are reported annually to the BLM and to the OHMVR Division.</p>
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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	Other-BLM CASO OHV Program Manager Notes : This line item is the contribution of time on the part of the BLM California State Program Leader for OHV recreation to administer this grant, including accounting, contract document preparation, and record keeping.	20.000	79.440	HRS	0.00	1,589.00	1,589.00
	Other-BLM EI Centro Field Office Notes : This line item corresponds to the contributed time of the wildlife biologist at the BLM EI Centro Field Office in conducting and supervising bird monitoring in Sonoran Desert thorn woodlands in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area. Also, costs in record keeping for BLM vehicle use by contractors is included here.	58.000	52.700	HRS	0.00	3,057.00	3,057.00

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Agency: BLM - California State Office
Application: Ground Operations- Monitoring Sonoran Woodland Birds (FINAL)

3/1/2010

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Other-BLM Palm Springs Field Office Notes : This line item covers the time contributed by the BLM Palm Springs Field Office wildlife biologist in participating in bird surveys in Sonoran Desert thorn woodlands in Riverside County during the term of the grant.	80.000	52.700	HRS	0.00	4,216.00	4,216.00
	Other-BLM CASO Ecologist Notes : This line item covers the time contributed by the BLM Palm Springs Field Office wildlife biologist in participating in bird surveys in Sonoran Desert thorn woodlands in Riverside County during the term of the grant.	60.000	72.300	HRS	0.00	4,338.00	4,338.00
	Total for Staff				0.00	13,200.00	13,200.00
2	Contracts						
	Other-Imperial Sand Dunes Woodland Bird	1.000	10000.000	EA	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
	Other-Monitoring for Other Woodlands	1.000	60000.000	EA	60,000.00	0.00	60,000.00
	Other-Avian Ecologist Notes : This contribution represents a contribution of time on the part of an avian ecologist on the staff of PRBO Conservation Science to do data quality control for field data collected in the 2011 spring season.	40.000	45.000	HRS	0.00	1,800.00	1,800.00
	Other-Avian Ecologist	72.000	90.000	HRS	0.00	6,480.00	6,480.00
	Total for Contracts				60,000.00	18,280.00	78,280.00
3	Materials / Supplies						
4	Equipment Use Expenses						
	Other-Truck 1 - BLM El Centro FO Notes : The BLM El Centro Field Office will contribute the use of one BLM vehicle to PRBO Conservation Science biologists to conduct bird monitoring in Sonoran woodlands.	2400.000	0.500	MI	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00

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3/1/2010

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Other-Truck 2 - BLM EI Centro Notes : The EI Centro Field Office will contribute the use of a second BLM vehicle for BLM staff and local contractors to cover monitoring birds in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area in the spring and winter seasons.	400.000	0.500	MI	0.00	200.00	200.00
	Other-Truck - BLM Palm Springs Field Off Notes : The BLM Palm Springs Field Office will contribute the use of a vehicle to cover bird monitoring by scientists from PRBO Conservation Science in Sonoran Desert woodlands in central and eastern Riverside County in the spring of 2011.	650.000	0.500	MI	0.00	325.00	325.00
	Other-Truck - BLM CASO Notes : This contribution is for travel by the BLM Ecologist to the Sonoran Desert in California and to PRBO Headquarters in Petaluma, CA, to do support the bird monitoring project.	800.000	0.500	MI	0.00	400.00	400.00
	Other-Boat - BLM Needles FO Notes : The BLM Needles Field Office contributes use of a boat and the fuel for the boat to transport PRBO and BLM wildlife biologists to remote monitoring points along the Colorado River that serve as control sites for comparison with woodland sites within the BLM designated OHV route network.	240.000	0.500	MI	0.00	120.00	120.00
	Total for Equipment Use Expenses				0.00	2,245.00	2,245.00
5	Equipment Purchases						
6	Others						
7	Indirect Costs						
	Indirect Costs-The BLM Indirect Costs	0.100	60000.000	EA	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
	Total Program Expenses				60,000.00	39,725.00	99,725.00
	TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES				60,000.00	39,725.00	99,725.00

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Agency: BLM - California State Office
Application: Ground Operations- Monitoring Sonoran Woodland Birds (FINAL)

3/1/2010

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
TOTAL EXPENDITURES					60,000.00	39,725.00	99,725.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: BLM - California State Office
Application: Ground Operations- Monitoring Sonoran Woodland Birds (FINAL)

3/1/2010

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	0.00	13,200.00	13,200.00	<p>The BLM employee salaries do not overlap with requests to the OHMVR Division for salaries of BLM employees in other grant applications.</p> <p>The BLM CASO OHV Program Manager will contribute 20 hours to grant administration to facilitate transfer of payments to contractors and provide contract documentation to the Division.</p> <p>The BLM El Centro Field Office Wildlife Biologist will work on winter and spring bird monitoring in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area woodlands and on spring bird monitoring in the Lark Canyon OHV Recreation Area.</p> <p>The BLM Palm Springs Field Office Wildlife Biologist will monitor spring birds in woodlands in central and eastern Riverside County.</p> <p>The BLM California State Office Ecologist will monitor spring birds in woodlands in eastern Riverside and San Bernardino counties, train BLM staff in the monitoring protocol, and review contractor reports.</p>
2	Contracts	60,000.00	18,280.00	78,280.00	<p>The first item, which the BLM funds entirely, engages a contracting biological scientist to work on the winter and summer monitoring for woodland birds in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area.</p>

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3/1/2010

					<p>The second, for which the BLM is requesting funding, engages PRBO Conservation Science to monitor woodland bird plots in the spring that the BLM field office staffs are not able to complete on the ground.</p> <p>The PRBO Conservation Science contributes the salary for two avian ecologists will conduct data quality control and statistical analysis. In addition, the senior avian ecologist will review and co-author the statistical analysis and text before PRBO submits its final report for 2011 monitoring to the Bureau and the OHMVR Division.</p>
3	Materials / Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	2,245.00	2,245.00	<p>The BLM El Centro Field Office will provide a Department of Interior vehicle for the use of the PRBO Conservation Science monitoring team during the spring season, 2011.</p> <p>The BLM staff in the El Centro and Palm Springs field offices and the California State Office plus will also be using vehicles for traveling to monitoring sites by BLM staff, local contractors (not funded under this grant), and volunteers.</p> <p>The BLM Needles Field Office provides the PRBO Conservation Science monitoring team with a boat to reach remote sites on the Colorado River.</p>
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	

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 Application: Ground Operations- Monitoring Sonoran Woodland Birds (FINAL)

3/1/2010

6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Indirect Costs	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	
Total Program Expenses		60,000.00	39,725.00	99,725.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		60,000.00	39,725.00	99,725.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		60,000.00	39,725.00	99,725.00	

Environmental Review Data Sheet (ERDS)

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Version # _____

APP # 700606

ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. Does the proposed Project include a request for funding for CEQA and/or NEPA document preparation prior to implementing the remaining Project Deliverables (i.e., is it a two-phased Project pursuant to Section 4970.06.1(b)) (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

ITEM 3 - Project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378

- c. ITEM 3 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No
- e. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 4 – 10
- All activities associated with this project have been previously analyzed and provided for in previous grants as NEPA and CEQA adequate. The work involves monitoring birds in woodland environments. No alteration of the natural environment occurs as a result of the monitoring effort.

ITEM 4 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

ITEM 5 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

ITEM 6 - Soil Impacts

ITEM 7 - Damage to Scenic Resources

ITEM 8 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 9 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Discuss the potential for the proposed Project to have any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources.

ITEM 10 - Indirect Significant Impacts

CEQA/NEPA Attachment

Attachments:

[GO Woodland Birds CX 05 03 10](#)

Evaluation Criteria

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700606

1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the cost of the Project covered by the Applicant is 3

(Note: This field will auto-populate once the Cost Estimate and Evaluation Criteria are Validated.) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 76% or more (10 points)
☐ 51% - 75% (5 points)
☒ 26% - 50% (3 points)
☐ 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

2. Failure to Complete - Q 2.

2. Failure to complete the Project would result in: 2

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 8 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Loss of OHV Opportunity (6 points)
☐ Negative impact to cultural sites (2 points)
☒ Damage to special-status species or other sensitive habitat (2 points)
☐ Potential trespass (2 points)
☐ Additional damage to Facilities (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

This ground operational monitoring assists BLM regionally to meet requirements for HMPs for the Sonoran Desert Thorn Woodland where a high number of California state-listed endangered bird species and BLM Sensitive Bird Species are found. The bird species are listed in the project description section. The Sonoran Desert thorn woodland in its entirety is designated an Important Bird Area in California.

3. Sustain OHV Opportunity - Q 3.

3. The Project would sustain OHV Opportunity by

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Maintaining trail or road tread (5 points)
☐ Installing or repairing erosion control features (3 points)
☐ Providing traffic control and/or educational signage (3 points)
☐ Maintaining multi use (ATV, Dirt Bikes, 4x4, etc) (1 point)
☐ Providing varied levels of riding difficulty (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

4. Public Input - Q 4.

4. The Project was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Publicly noticed meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)
☒ Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)
☒ Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

Sonoran Thorn Woodland Management is a major wildlife and habitat issue for the five BLM field offices on the California side of the lower Colorado River. OHV program leaders, archaeologists, and wildlife biologists meet once a month by telephone to plan OHV recreation for regional consistency, including protection for rare woodland birds.

Stakeholders from research organizations, land management agencies, and universities have met to discuss the impacts to woodland wildlife from climate change, the threats to woodland ecosystems and their dependent bird populations, and effects of direct human disturbance (especially vehicular).

5. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 5.

5. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ 4 or more (4 points) ☐ 2 to 3 (2 points)
☐ 1 (1 point) ☐ None (No points)

List partner organization(s):

PRBO Conservation Science
Audubon California
The Sonoran Joint Venture for Bird Conservation
US Fish and Wildlife Service, Cibola National Wildlife Refuge
US Fish and Wildlife Service, Imperial National Wildlife Refuge
Picacho State Recreation Area

6. Impact to Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 6.

6. The Project will avoid and/or minimize impact to natural and cultural resources by 1

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 7 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Maintaining physical barriers to control OHV use (1 point)
☐ Protecting water quality (1 point)
☐ Providing bridges instead of wet crossings where appropriate (1 point)
☒ Protecting special-status species (1 point)
☐ Re-routing trails to divert away from riparian/wetlands areas (1 point)
☐ Providing sanitary facilities (1 point)
☐ Protecting cultural site(s) (1 point)
☐ Site design precludes the need for the above measures (7 points)

Explain each statement that was checked

This ground operations monitoring program detects over time whether multiple-use management of the Sonoran Desert thorn woodlands, a favored recreation habitat of OHV riders as well as rare bird species, is adequate to maintaining bird species populations and OHV riding opportunity.

7. Recycled Materials - Q 7.

7. The Project incorporates recycled materials by utilizing 1

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Barrier materials which include recycled content or materials obtained onsite (1 point)
☐ Signs, sign posts or education kiosks which use products with recycled content (1 point)
☐ Erosion control features which use materials with recycled content (1 point)

- ☐ Paper used for trail maps which includes recycled content (1 point)
☒ Other products with recycled content (Specify) (1 point) [Field data collection sheets use recycled paper]

8. Sustainable Technologies - Q 8.

8. The Project makes substantial use of sustainable technologies such as 0

- Alternative fuel vehicles and equipment
- Renewable energy sources (e.g., solar, wind)
- Low volatile organic compound emission materials (e.g., paint, sealants, carpet)
- Low flow plumbing fixtures
- Water efficient landscaping

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

☒ No (No points)

☐ Yes (4 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

9. Motorized Access - Q 9.

9. The Project improves and/or maintains facilities that provide motorized access to the following non-motorized recreation opportunities 6

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each, up to a maximum of 6 points (Please select applicable values)

☒ Camping

☒ Birding

☒ Hiking

☐ Equestrian trails

☐ Fishing

☐ Rock Climbing

☐ Other (Specify)